Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1 - 31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended): A method for producing a recombinant yeast capable of utilizing a six carbon sugar to produce ~~ASA or an ASA~~ ascorbic acid (ASA) or an ascorbic acid (ASA) stereoisomer comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a yeast capable of utilizing ~~KLG~~ 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a carbon source to produce ASA or an ASA stereoisomer and

b) introducing at least either or both of ~~a)~~ i) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding an oxidative enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast and ~~b)~~ ii) a heterologous nucleic acid encoding a reducing enzyme associated with the production of ascorbic acid or an ascorbic acid stereoisomer in said yeast.

33. (Original): The method of Claim 32 wherein the yeast is a member of the Imperfect yeast group.

34. (Currently amended): The ~~yeast~~ method of Claim 33 wherein the yeast is a member of the family Cryptococcaceae.

35. (Currently amended): The ~~yeast~~ method of Claim 34 wherein the yeast ~~includes Candida and Cryptococcus~~ is a member of *Candida* or *Cryptococcus*.

36. (Currently amended): The ~~yeast~~ method of Claim 35 wherein the yeast is ~~Candida blankii~~ *Candida blankii*.

37. (Currently amended): The ~~yeast~~ method of Claim 35 wherein the yeast is ~~Cryptococcus dimennae~~ *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

38. (Currently amended): The ~~yeast~~ method of Claim 32 wherein said yeast is ~~Candida blankii or Cryptococcus dimennae and said carbon source~~ *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and said six carbon sugar comprises glucose, wherein said yeast comprises a heterologous

polynucleotide encoding a glucose dehydrogenase ~~and a 2,5-DKGreductase activity~~ and a heterologous polynucleotide encoding 2, 5 -diketo-L-gluconic acid (2,5-DKG) reductase.

39. (Currently amended) The ~~yeast~~ method of Claim 32 wherein said yeast is ~~Candida blankii or Cryptococcus dimennae and said carbon source~~ *Candida blankii* or *Cryptococcus dimennae* and said six carbon sugar comprises D-sorbitol, L-sorbose or L-sorbosone, wherein said yeast comprises at least one ~~of an~~ a heterologous polynucleotide encoding a L-sorbose ~~activity~~, a D-sorbitol dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, an L-sorbosone dehydrogenase ~~activity~~, ~~and~~ or a galactose dehydrogenase ~~activity~~.

40. (Canceled)

41. (New): The recombinant yeast produced according to the method of Claim 32.

42. (New): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41, wherein said yeast is a *Candida blankii*.

43. (New): The recombinant yeast of Claim 41, wherein said yeast is a *Cryptococcus dimennae*.

44. (New): A method for producing a recombinant yeast capable of utilizing a six carbon sugar to produce ascorbic acid (ASA) or an ascorbic acid (ASA) stereoisomer comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a yeast which is a member of *Candida* or *Cryptococcus* and which is capable of utilizing 2-keto-L-gulonic acid (KLG) as a sole carbon source to produce ASA or an ASA stereoisomer;

b) introducing into the yeast a heterologous nucleic acid encoding i) an oxidative enzyme associated with the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer; ii) a reducing enzyme associated with the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer or both i) and ii); and

c) culturing the yeast in the presence of a six carbon sugar under conditions suitable for the production of ASA or an ASA stereoisomer.

45. (New): The method according to Claim 44, wherein the six carbon sugar is glucose, gulose, idose, galactose, mannose, sorbose or fructose.

46. (New): The method according to Claim 44 further comprising the step of recovering the ASA or ASA stereoisomer.

47. (New): The recombinant yeast produced according to the method of Claim 44.